

September 2012

**Mississippi Arts  
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Dear Friends,

Mississippi is proudly at the top of the list when it comes to having the most active, vibrant, and long-standing group of community theatres. Longevity alone is something to make us proud; Meridian and Natchez have theatre groups dating back to the 1930's, and Bay St. Louis finds its thespian roots in the 1940's. Playhouses across Mississippi also have some of the most dedicated volunteers, hard-working staff members, and dedicated community supporters, not to mention outstanding productions.

If you're curious about how Mississippi is doing regarding bringing communities together, just step in and open the doors to one of our state's 50 community theatres or your very own local playhouse. Experience what 700,000 other Mississippians who attend performances annually already know about the power of community theatre. These grassroots organizations reach out to diverse groups with collaborative spirit across the region and even beyond state borders. Although community theatre work is often challenging, these organizations have a real opportunity to create a sense of "place" in their hometown. Theatre gives communities a framework from which they can view the human spirit by magnifying the fabric of life, ensuring that everyone shares a common thread. If quality and artistic excellence are part of the organization's mission, not only will the audience witness an illumination of life at its best, it will benefit from this insight and grow both personally and as a community.

Successful theater organizations have learned to become part of their community's heartbeat. Theater activities bridge the generation gap; they engage new audiences, and create and sustain relationships. The presentation of plays, readings, summer camps for youth, acting workshops, and improvisation classes are ongoing to educate and nurture individuals – one person at a time. The link and involvement between the performances and programming of local theatre and their community is the concept that I refer to as Community Learning; in essence, the connectivity of the arts and education within a community.

Beyond the individual playhouses in Mississippi, there is a strong network affiliation with the Mississippi Theatre Association (MTA). The MTA has been successful in convening and getting everyone to the same table for discussions geared around strengthening all of the state's theatre groups. MTAs outreach has garnered participation from community theatre houses, high school and college theatre groups, as well as from Mississippi playwrights.

If you've ever wanted to get involved on-stage or behind-stage, consider sharing your skills at your local theatre; something as general as carpentry, sewing, or simply handing out programs could be a nice start. The volunteer base at any one of Mississippi's community theatres is consistently stellar and very welcoming when it comes to dedication and service. Like sports, theatre is a great place to build teamwork skills by "working together." The more we learn about each other and the world around us, the more we can synchronize for the betterment of our community, our family, our neighbors and the schoolhouse.

Most theatres have also been successful in maintaining a substantial membership base to help them take care of basic needs, but sponsorships and donors are still a necessity. Although the seats have gotten wider, the purse strings have gotten smaller, and theatres in Mississippi have had to balance their creative economic efforts by working inside and outside the 'black box'. Some theatres have "taken the show on the road" by presenting in schools and other performing arts spaces; others have turned to performances in more creative venues. Don't be surprised if, one day, you walk into your local restaurant, bar or juke joint, local library or garden club meeting and suddenly find that you have stumbled onto a theatre experience. It has occurred on more than one occasion right here in Mississippi. MAC includes a performance experience in its professional development workshops, such as the Whole Schools Summer Institute. A production in borrowed spaces such as parks, bank lobbies, church fellowship halls, or in a museum space should no longer come as a surprise. Wherever the curtain goes up, take your seat and celebrate the coming together of friends, family and neighbors. After all, 700,000 people can't be all wrong, so step up, enjoy the show, and watch your community unify through the joy of theatre!

My best,  
Malcolm

## MAC Staff

Malcolm White  
Executive Director

Lee Powell  
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs  
Public Relations  
Director

Teresa Haygood  
Executive Assistant

Jodie Engle  
Whole Schools  
Initiative Program  
Director

Sallye Killebrew  
Special Initiatives  
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Mary Margaret Miller  
Heritage Director

Larry Morrissey  
Director of Grant  
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Alesha Nelson  
Fiscal Officer

Shirley Smith  
Systems  
Administrator

Kim Whitt  
Arts Education  
Director

Diane Williams  
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead  
Arts-Based  
Community  
Development Director



## MISSISSIPPI & U.S. POET LAUREATE TO RECITE AT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

We invite you to attend a special poetry recital and discussion with U.S. and Mississippi Poet Laureate, Natasha Trethewey, on **Thursday, September 20, at 3 p.m. in room 166/266 of the JSU College of Liberal Arts.**

Sponsored by the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State, the Library of Congress, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the Mississippi Library Commission, the Mississippi Center for the Book, and the National Center for the Book, the event is free and open to the public.

Immediately after the recital and discussion, a reception will follow at the Margaret Walker Center in Ayer Hall.



## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS!

The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to partner with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation to present Poetry Out Loud:

National Recitation Contest. Poetry Out Loud is a program that encourages high school students to learn about literature through the memorization and performance of great poetry. From August 2012 through December 2012, ninth through twelfth grade students statewide are invited to participate in classroom and school-wide contests leading toward one of three Mississippi Regional Contests in early 2013. The Eighth Annual Mississippi State Finals Contest will be held in Jackson on Thursday, March 7, 2013. The state champion will advance to the National Recitation Contest held in Washington, D.C. April 29-30, 2013. To find out more, visit MAC's website and click on the POL logo or follow this link...<http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/poetryoutloud.php>

## SONEDNA FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After a six month national search, the Board of Directors of the SonEdna Foundation selected Karen C. Wilson as the organization's new Executive Director. Wilson succeeds Benjamin Douglas who served as director since SonEdna's founding in 2006. SonEdna was created to support and promote the literary arts with an emphasis in the Mississippi Delta.

Wilson is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and has been a nonprofit executive, volunteer leader and fundraiser for nearly 40 years. Within that time Wilson has raised more than \$300 million to support organizations. Karen's experience and achievements as a non-profit leader as well as her understanding of the literary arts and arts community are exactly what we were looking for. Having someone at the helm with the first-hand understanding and experience of a writer was an important consideration. For more information visit [www.sonedna.org](http://www.sonedna.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### "The Foreigner"

September 21-23  
7:30pm/2pm, 23rd  
New Stage Theatre,  
Jackson

### An Evening with Caroline Herring

September 21  
8:00pm  
Duling Hall, Jackson

### Farish Street Heritage Festival

September 22  
4:00pm  
Historic Farish Street  
District, Jackson

### Dog Day Afternoon

September 23  
Noon  
Art Garden at MS  
Museum of Art, Jackson

### WellsFest Art Night

September 25  
5:30pm  
Duling Hall, Jackson

### Music in the City

September 25  
5:15pm  
Mississippi Museum of  
Art, Jackson

### Historic Rose Hill Costumed Cemetery Tour

September 29  
6pm  
Meridian, MS

### WellsFest

September 29  
8:00am  
Jamie Fowler Boyll Park,  
Jackson

### Artists by Artists

September 29  
11am  
Mississippi Museum of  
Art, Jackson

### Highway 61 Blues Festival

September 29  
Noon  
Downtown Leland, MS

**WellsFest Art Night**  
Tuesday, Sept 25th  
Duling Hall in Fondren  
Featuring Many of  
**Mississippi's  
Finest Artists**  
Food & Beverages  
BABALU TABLE 100  
TACOS & TOPICS  
5:30 ~ Preview  
7:00 ~ Live Art Auction  
**FREE ADMISSION** Music by:  
**CHRIS GILL & The SoleShakers**  
One Event - Two BIG Days  
WellsFest - Jackson's Original Music Festival  
Saturday, Sept 29th  
**Benefiting The Farish Street YMCA**

## A GREAT EVENT FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

WellsFest, recipient of a 2012 Governor's Award for "Arts in Community," is a family festival, with something for folks of all ages and tastes. Every year, caring artists from throughout the community, and beyond, donate works for sale in their Live Art Auction on the Tuesday night before WellsFest Day.

WellsFest Art Night puts the spotlight on their generosity. Some of Mississippi's finest artists donate their work for this special evening to raise funds for WellsFest's annual recipient. This year it is The Farish Street YMCA.

The festival will be held on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, at Jamie Fowler Boyll Park and will feature another Governor's Awards winner, Mac McAnally!



## ATTENTION TEACHERS! BE A PART OF MAC'S GREAT SEAL CONTEST

How can your class end up at the state capitol? Write a lesson plan using the Great Seal of Mississippi and create a fabulously imaginative seal for our Governor, Lt. Governor and legislators! Bring or mail us your winning poster with the complete lesson attached to the back and all the information filled in to the Mississippi Arts Commission office by December 14th. The top three posters will be selected, and the students will be invited to come to Jackson during Day at the Capitol on March 26, 2013 to present the beautifully framed seals to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House. Contact Kim Whitt at [kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us) for your great seal posters to be mailed to you now!

For details visit: <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/news/GreatSeal.php>



Governor Phil Bryant accepts his "Great Seal" from the winning school in 2012.



## Coming In October!

### **Peter and the Wolf**

October 2  
7:00pm  
Copiah-Lincoln  
Community College,  
Wesson, MS

### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Classics in the Courtyard"**

Fridays (10/10, 10/26)  
Noon  
Southern Cultural  
Heritage Foundation,  
Vicksburg

### **Debbie Jenkis & Ralph Null Gallery Opening**

October 4  
5:30pm  
Rosenzweig Arts Center,  
Columbus, MS

### **MS Symphony Orchestra II: Rachmaninoff's Third**

October 20  
7:30pm  
Thalia Mara Hall, Jackson

### **Mississippi Community Symphonic Band Concert**

October 20  
7:00pm  
Belhaven Performing Arts  
Center

### **Mississippi International Film Festival**

October 25-28  
10am till 12am  
Davis Planetarium and  
Jackson State University

To find a  
complete listing  
of events or to  
have your event  
listed visit

[www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/](http://www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/)

## MAC'S VISUAL ARTS DIRECTORY *SEPTEMBER'S FEATURED ARTIST*



Born in Mississippi, raised in Kansas, having worked as a commercial artist in New Orleans and New York, **Carolyn B. DeLeo** has now returned to Mississippi. She is a self-taught painter and in the freedom of unplanned creativity, she explores the concept that form breaks down into basic shapes, and she experiments with the reaction and reflection of color. The painting above is entitled *The Dance*. Visit her website to find out more.

[www.carolynbogartdeleo.com](http://www.carolynbogartdeleo.com)

*The [Mississippi Visual Arts Directory](http://www.mississippivisualarts.com) provides a regularly updated resource on the visual arts across Mississippi. Included is information on Mississippi-based visual artists (such as painters, sculptors, and photographers) and craftspeople as well as descriptions of Mississippi galleries, museums, cultural centers, and arts education facilities. The site is maintained by the Mississippi Arts Commission.*

*The Commission provides listings on this site as a courtesy to Mississippi-based artists and arts organizations. However, their inclusion does not represent an endorsement or funding by the agency. The Commission reserves the right to edit or reject any submission and is not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by the artists or organizations. Artists featured are randomly selected.*



Delta Rising  
Juried Invitational Exhibit Opening  
November 13th, 6pm

### **CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS**

Delta Rising is a juried exhibition organized by the Delta Arts Alliance featuring Delta artists aged 18 to 30. Held at the Ellis Theater in downtown Cleveland, MS, November 13th to January 4th, this exhibition aims to highlight the diversity of emerging artistic talent in the Delta region of Mississippi and provide a forum for young artists who are from, living in or otherwise associated with the Delta. Submissions in all media - 2-D and 3-D, video, installations, and more - following the exhibition guidelines will be considered. A total of \$1000 in cash awards will be announced at the opening reception. Submission deadline is October 2nd, 2012. For more information visit <http://deltaartsalliance.com/>



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard statewide on Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting [mpbonline.org](http://mpbonline.org). The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

### Upcoming shows

#### September 23

Diane Williams hosts with writer, Valerie Winn

#### September 30

Mary Margaret Miller hosts with painter, Jerrod Partridge

#### October 7

Malcolm White hosts with visual artist and musician, Don Jacobs.

#### October 14

Mississippi Public Broadcasting Fall Fund Drive Show

"A WELL-SPENT  
DAY MEANS HAPPY  
SLEEP."  
*Leonardo da Vinci*



## 2012 Whole Schools Initiative Fall Cluster Retreats

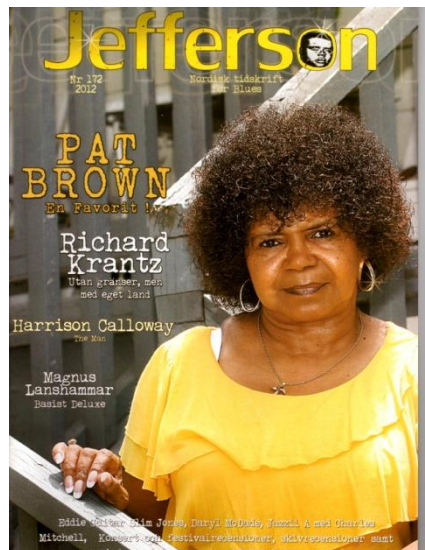
We invite you to attend the 2012 Whole Schools Initiative Fall Cluster Retreat in your region throughout the month of October. This one day professional development opportunity is designed for teams of PreK to 12<sup>th</sup> grade classroom teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, principals and superintendents who will experience, observe and create arts integrated lessons using Common Core State

Standards and principles of Universal Design for Learning. Attendees will experience a model lesson, created and piloted by a Mississippi teaching artist and teacher, that can be adapted to fit any grade level. Through group work, reflection and open discussions, attendees will leave with a list of creative strategies that will provide their students with an opportunity to deepen learning and nurture 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Registration Fee: \$50 per participant / Due before the event or at the door. CEU Credits are available. Click below to register. Each workshop is from 8:00am to 4:30pm.

[Wednesday, October 10 in Hattiesburg at Oak Grove Primary's Arts Center](#)

[Wednesday, October 17 in Jackson at Casey Elementary School](#)

[Wednesday, October 24 in Tupelo at Pierce Street Elementary School](#)



Pat Brown, Mississippi Arts Commission roster artist and Central MS Blues Society VP, was recently featured on the cover and in a 2- page article in Jefferson Blues magazine in Sweden. The magazine is published in Swedish but can be read on-line at:

<http://www.jeffersonbluesmag.com/pat-brown>

Mississippi musicians are loved all over the world!

## ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### SouthArts

#### Executive Director

SouthArts is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director.

SouthArts, a nonprofit regional arts organization based in Atlanta, GA, was founded in 1975 to build on the South's unique heritage and enhance the public value of the arts. SouthArts' work responds to the arts environment and cultural trends with a regional perspective.

Please contact Jeanie Duncan at [jduncan@ravenconsultinggroup.com](mailto:jduncan@ravenconsultinggroup.com) with nominations and applications. Further updates will be posted to the website as the search continues over the coming weeks. Visit [www.southarts.org](http://www.southarts.org) for more information.